

LIFE IN NATURE ON LAKE MICHIGAN

New Buffalo Times

NEWS \$1

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF NEW BUFFALO, MICHIGAN • SINCE 1942

CHICAGO • LONG BEACH • MICHIANA SHORES • GRAND BEACH • NEW BUFFALO • UNION PIER • THREE OAKS • LAKESIDE • HARBERT • SAWYER

issue 4, volume 85

www.newbuffalotimes.com

Thursday, January 22, 2026

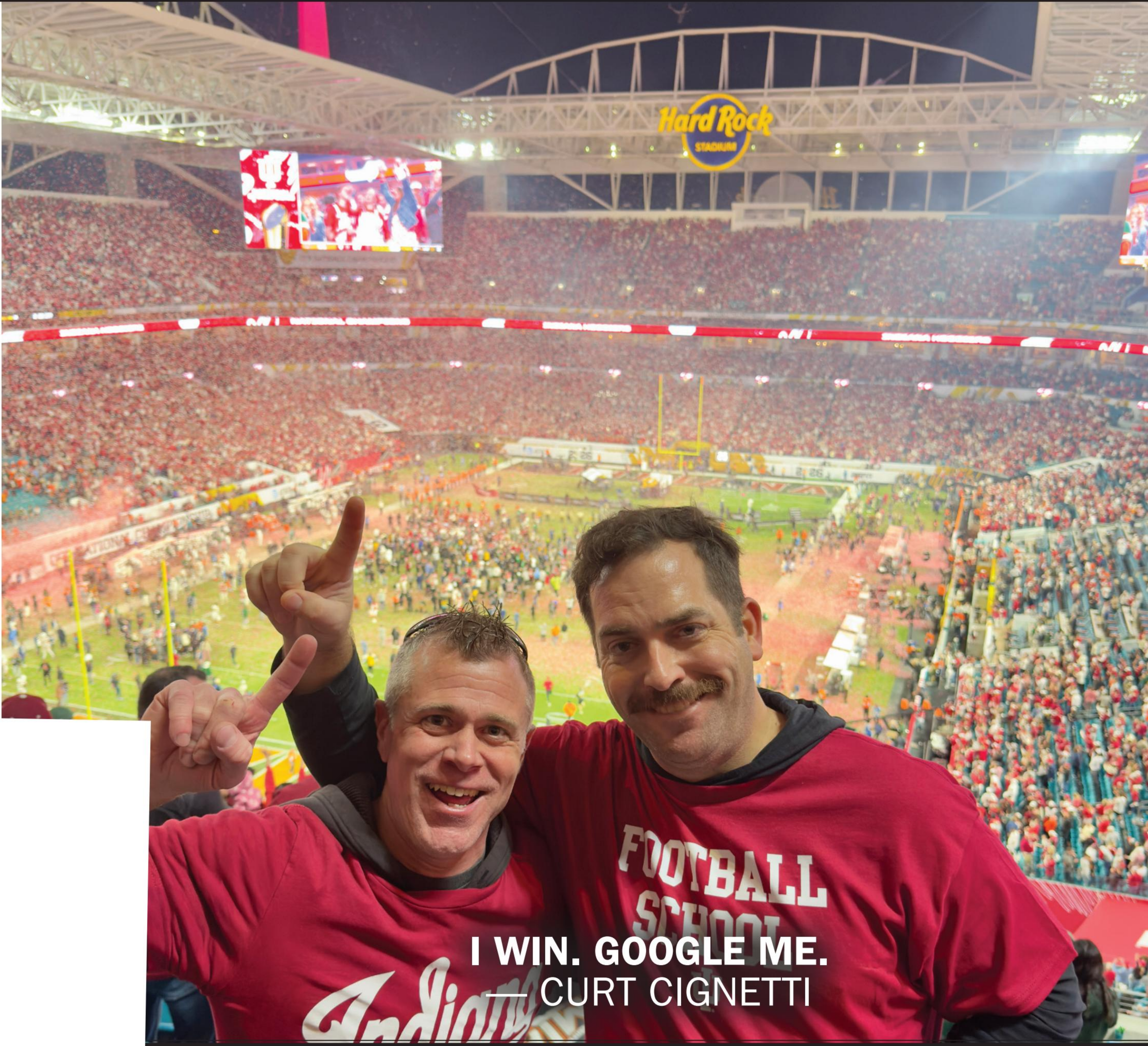
Village Council receives
lagoon project update
PAGE 3

New Buffalo Township,
City partner for
spectacular fireworks
show **PAGE 4**

City Council approves
2026 resolutions
PAGES 6-7



Bison blow out Beavers
in boys' basketball
PAGE 10



I WIN. GOOGLE ME.
— CURT CIGNETTI

30 N Whittaker St
Bar by night

the
**FALSE
FRONT**
NEW BUFFALO • MI

Open Thursday-Monday
thefalsefrontbar.com


TREECORE
COMPLETE TREE
& CRANE SERVICE
269-469-6226
Fully Insured **JOE CARR**

Auto-Owners
INSURANCE
LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

 **HARBOR COUNTRY
INSURANCE AGENCY**

www.HARBORCOUNTRYINSURANCE.COM

Gregory A. Bubbs, CIC
269-469-4438
212 S Whittaker St.
New Buffalo, MI

McGHEE'S
Heating & Air Conditioning

"Feel at Ease with McGhee's"

**We Service
All Brands**

Ask about our
C.A.R.E CLUB
Maintenance Agreement

**Call McGhee's for
your Annual Tune-Up**

(269) 466-0123
www.mcgheesheating.com
7301 Red Arrow Hwy | Stevensville, MI 49127

bryant
Heating & Cooling Systems

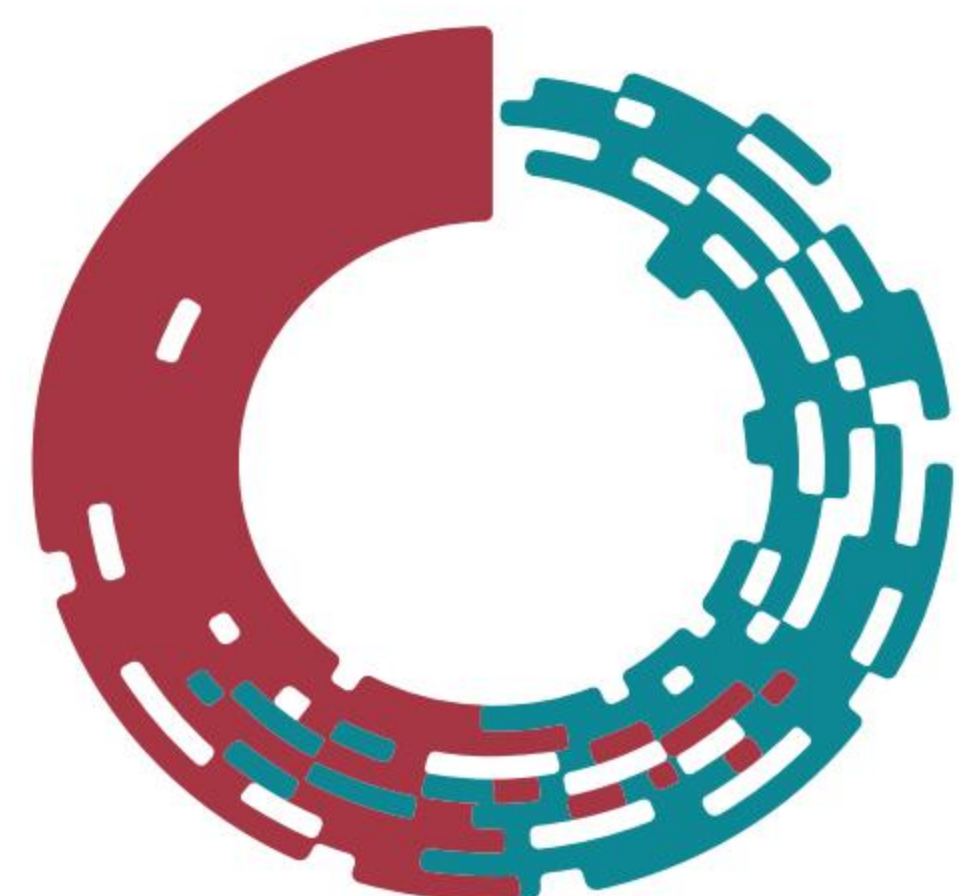


Google
Reviews ★★★★★

NATE
NORTH AMERICAN TECHNICAL EDUCATION
CONFIRMING THE FIRST PLY

BBB
ACCREDITED
BUSINESS

Angi
★★★★★



AT YOUR SERVICE
A COMPANY OF CRAFTSMEN
WWW.ATYOURSERVICE.BUILDERS
T.269.358.8159

CUSTOM: HOMES | RENOVATION | COMMERCIAL

 **Passaro, Kahne, Taylor,
DeFrancesco, & Thompson**
LAW OFFICES *your local common-sense legal team*

685 West Main Street, Benton Harbor, MI 49022 | (269) 983-0325 | passarokahne.com
17656A US Highway 12, New Buffalo, MI 49117 | (269) 469-5297 | Fax: (269) 983-0328

- **Business/Tax Law**
- **Estate Planning**
- **Medicaid & Long-Term
Care Planning**
- **Real Estate**
- **Special Needs Planning**
- **Probate and Trust
Administration**



**A relaxing escape
in the heart of
Harbor Country**

Enjoy spacious
rooms, homemade
breakfast, and
quiet comfort at
our charming
7-room B&B.
Welcoming guests
for over 30 years.

Garden Grove Inn
UNION PIER • MICHIGAN

New Buffalo Times

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
— SINCE 1942 —

ETHICS

SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM
MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION MEMBER

PROPRIETOR

NEW BUFFALO TIMES, INC.

EDITOR

NEW BUFFALO TIMES INTELLIGENCE
EDITORIAL BOARD

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

JOE DURK

REPORTERS/WRITERS

THERESE DONNELLY
FRANCESCA SAGALA
LAWRENCE VON EBELER
KURT MARGGRAF
JACK OLESKER
KAREN EDWARDS
ALEXANDER FATOUROS
SOPHIA R. FATOUROS
STAN MADDUX
KRISTIN E. FATOUROS
NEW BUFFALO TIMES INTELLIGENCE
NEW BUFFALO TIMES POLITICS
GUESTS

QUOTES

DINO N. FATOUROS

PROOFING

FRANCESCA SAGALA

BROADCAST/ADVERTISING

JANINE ADAMSKI 630-370-0820
OR JANINEADAMSKI@GMAIL.COM

SUGGESTIONS, CRITICISM, IDEAS

MEDIA@NEWBUFFALOTIMES.COM

ADVERTISING

MEDIA@NEWBUFFALOTIMES.COM

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS@NEWBUFFALOTIMES.COM

SUBSCRIPTIONS

SUBSCRIPTIONS@NEWBUFFALOTIMES.COM

COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY

WITH NEW BUFFALO TIMES
INFO@NEWBUFFALOTIMES.COM

Periodical Postage paid in
New Buffalo, MI. Postmaster,
please send address changes to:
NEW BUFFALO TIMES
PO BOX 369, New Buffalo, MI 49117

©2026 NEW BUFFALO TIMES, INC.
PUBLICATION NUMBER 377960
CIRCULATION 5,000+ WEEKLY

NEW BUFFALO TIMES distribution:
Milda's Corner Market • Sawyer Garden
Center • The Whistle Stop
David's Delicatessen • Barney's
Knoll Bros. • Stray Dog
Infusco Coffee Roasters
Black Currant Bakehouse • Redamak's
Between Casey's and Nancy's
Froehlics • Three Oaks • The Lakeside Inn
Michigan City, IN • Chicago, IL
Kalamazoo, MI • Grand Rapids, MI
Three Oaks, MI • Union Pier, MI
Sawyer, MI • St. Joseph, MI

For the most convenient location,
you can subscribe to get the
NEW BUFFALO TIMES
in your mailbox or inbox.
Please email us for E-TIMES,
info@newbuffalotimes.com.

Village Council receives lagoon project update

BY THERESE DONNELLY

Work on the village lagoons is close to completion, members of the Three Oaks Village Council learned at their Wednesday, Jan. 14, meeting.

Councilmembers approved a \$287,649.79 to pay the ninth draw for the lagoon project, and \$266,800.69 to Oselka Construction for work on the site.

Village President Dan Faulkner told the council one access road to the lagoons has become unusable in wet weather. While the construction contract included restoring any damage caused by construction equipment to certain access points, the access road in question was not part of that agreement.

Contractors did reshape the drive after completing the work, but Faulkner reported aggregate needs to be added.

Property owners will now be able to join the village's wait list for short-term rental permits. The iWorQ website has become active on the village website, as of Jan. 16. While permits can transfer with a property as part of a sale, position on the wait list cannot.

Property owners will now be able to join the village's wait list for short-term rental permits. The iWorQ website has become active on the village website, as of Jan. 16. While permits can transfer with a property as part of a sale, position on the wait list cannot.

The council passed a resolution granting the Michigan Department of Transportation for a right-of-way at the intersection of Ash and US 12. Faulkner said this was the first year MDOT had required a resolution to confirm the right-of-way.

The council voted unanimously to appoint Jodie Haughey to a seat on the Downtown Development Authority.

The council also appointed Colleen Newquist to the Planning Commission and Sherry Trucks to the Public Service Committee. Trucks will fill the seat left vacant by Tom Flint's resignation.

Village attorney Charles Hilmer told the council he expects to be able to soon present paperwork regarding an agreement to sell a village-owned lot at 114 N Elm St to Bridget and Tad Verdun.

While the lot is currently used for public parking, the Verduns approached the council about the possibility of purchasing the property since vehicles must encroach their property to access the parking spaces.

The village initiated a property assessment and Hilmer has been in discussion with the Verduns' attorney.

Councilmember Lois Jones told the

council that the Planning Commission is incorporating findings from the recent survey to update the Master Plan. She called it "a work in progress."

During his committee report, councilmember Mike Springer said porta johns had been placed on village property without prior permission. The Parks Committee is addressing the matter.

AEP had requested the village approve an easement to allow access to power lines. The original plan would run through the community garden on Oak Street. Faulkner said the village is in talks to shift the right of way to Linden Street, but it will require coordinating with the owners of the former elementary school at 100 E. Ash St.

Village Police Chief Carl Krause told the council the department has had two part-time officers resign. He and Faulkner have developed a job description and are interviewing candidates.

The council asked if there were ways to require a candidate to remain with the department for a minimum period if the village pays for their academy training. Krause said there may be ways, but it would not be easy to enforce, and he preferred not to keep an employee who does not want to stay.

Money is overvalued; its "signals" are overestimated world wide ...

— Dino N. Fatouros

Trust It To Be Wonderful



16409 Red Arrow Highway | Union Pier

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

CITY OF NEW BUFFALO

VANCE PRICE, MAYOR

CITY COUNCIL

MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJEWSKI, KAREN GEAR, RICH KNOLL, VANCE PRICE

City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM

CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM

NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD

HOWARD MALES, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, BARBARA ANDERSON

Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM

NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM

SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY

Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders

NEW BUFFALO AREA

RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY

Meets at 9AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo

NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD

LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, JENNIFER SUMMERS, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG

The Board meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 6PM

CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP

CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD

DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, ARTHUR ANDERSON

Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM

CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM

THREE OAKS

THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD

Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM

VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD

Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM

GRAND BEACH

Meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 5PM EST

KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER, JACK GRACE,

ED SEBASTIAN, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES

MICHIANA

VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL

Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

New Buffalo Township, City partner for spectacular fireworks show

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the New Buffalo Township Board approved entering into a joint contract with the City of New Buffalo for the July 3 fireworks display, pending contract review, at their Tuesday, Jan. 20, meeting.

Board members also approved to authorize payment of the township's share of the total cost not to exceed \$25,000.

Township Supervisor Michelle Heit said that they've discussed fireworks a few times, as the city would like to have a "very nice fireworks display" this summer in honor of the country's 250th birthday.

She said they've "tossed around how we could really do this" and came up with the idea of it being joint fireworks, so it would be the city and township fireworks.

"It'll be ours and we can then use some of our funds to put on the celebration - but it'll be all our fireworks," she said.

Heit added that "this isn't a donation, this is us putting on an event and sponsoring" it.

The attorney will review the contract and possibly next month, the township will be able to approve it.

"At least this gives everyone some direction," she said.

Board members approved the removal of five sirens at a cost of \$12,500 for all five sites to West Shore Services, Inc., who will provide a trade-in credit of \$4,500 per site for a total credit of \$22,500 and the township will receive a net credit balance of \$10,000.

About two years ago, fire chief

Jamie Flick said it was decided not to activate the sirens or do monthly testing with them for factors that included the internet, the amount of warning residents get with their phones and that, most of the time, the storm is already on the township before they can reach the station to set them off.

Flick said West Shore, which has been maintaining the sirens, is willing to take them down and is going to purchase them back, with the township gaining \$10,000 back from the purchase.

Board members accepted a bid of \$25,000 for the Grass Rig Fire Truck Number 1360.

Flick said the township had put two trucks up for sale through Garage and was able to sell one of them for an asking price of \$25,000, with the truck heading to South Dakota. He said the township will pay Garage 10 percent from the sale price, with the township receiving \$22,500 when all was said and done.

A resolution that adopts an ordinance which amends the residential rental and short-term rental licensing ordinance to not allow license transfers, with one change to Exhibit B to reflect the ordinance is effective immediately after publication, was adopted. Heit said that this will require people that, when they sell their STR, that the new owner apply for an STR on their own and that the licenses will not transfer.

Board members approved amending Electronic Transfers ACH Policy, ACH vendor list and ACH authorization form, which allows the township to make tax payments via ACH and requires two-factor authentication for all ACH transactions.

The 10th pay estimate of \$11,872.19 and fifth change order to PayJay Inc. for \$1,400 for the U.S. 12 Water Sewer Extension Special Assessment District Project were approved. Heit said this should be final payment and change order, as the project is complete.

An early voting site agreement with Berrien County was approved. Clerk Michelle Hannon said that there will be only one county site this year at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Bridgeman, adding that there's a large, accessible gym and nice spots for the workers to eat.

A resolution approving the amended inspection and fee schedule to include food trucks as adopted.

The following extensions of preliminary approval of SLUs were granted: a one-month extension to Harbor Country Drive LLC at 18910 Harbor Country Drive until Feb. 20 and a five-month one to NBT Partners LLC at 19317 U.S. 12 until June 16.

Board members unanimously voted "Nay" on an eight-month extension of preliminary approval of an SLU to Joyology.

A final approval of an SLU to 19701 New Buffalo Business LLC to operate an adult-use marijuana retail establishment at 19703 W. U.S. Highway 12 was granted.

Board members adopted a resolution allowing local residents to protest in writing to the Board of Review.

Resolutions to allow Board of Review to set alternate dates for the March, July and December Boards of Review were adopted, respectively.

The highest activity a human being can attain is learning for understanding ... — Baruch Spinoza

‘WORLD TRAVEL CLUB’ HOLDING GIVE BACK NIGHTS

The New Buffalo High School World Travel Club is continuing its mission of expanding students’ horizons through international travel.

The club is organizing a trip to Japan next school year, following the amazing success of its Italy trip last summer. Thanks to the support of the school district and local businesses, more than 20 students and two adult sponsors will be visiting Japan during spring break of 2027.

The club, which is advised by Kurt Raducha and Leanne Lamport, aims to provide students with an affordable opportunity to learn about the world firsthand.

To make these trips more accessible for all students, the World Travel Club has partnered with several local restaurants to host “Give Back Nights.” These events involve a local restaurant generously donating a portion of the proceeds on a given day to the club.

Brewsters was the first to host a successful Give Back Night on Dec. 4. Many community members came out to show their support. Other local businesses have committed to hosting Give Back Nights in the next few months. These include PostBoy Thursday, Jan. 22, where 5 percent of proceeds will go toward the Japan trip; Villa Nova Pizzeria Tuesday, Feb. 3; and Hummingbird Lounge Thursday, March 12.

The World Travel Club wishes to thank the incredible local businesses and community members for their support. It has helped to not only raise money but also raise awareness about the WTC.

To learn more about their travels or how to become a sponsor, please contact Kurt Raducha at kraducha@nbas.org.

— STAFF REPORTS



Get local help with your Medicare questions

I’m Marcie Ritter, a licensed sales agent in Southwest Michigan/Northern Indiana. When it comes to Medicare, it’s important to consider all of your options. What works well for your neighbor may not be the best fit for you. I know the ins and outs of Medicare, and I’m ready to answer your questions and help you find a plan that fits your needs. **Make the most of my knowledge and experience to:**

- Take the confusion out of Medicare
- Receive one-on-one service
- Get help comparing plans
- Make enrolling in a plan easier

I look forward to helping you explore your Medicare options so you can enroll in a plan with confidence.

Call today to learn more about Medicare Advantage plans in your area



Marcie Ritter
Licensed Sales Agent
2198142660, TTY 711
marcie@ritterinsuranceagency.net
UHC.com/Medicare

United Healthcare®

City Council approves 2026 resolutions

BY THERESE DONNELLY

With the new year underway, the New Buffalo City Council used their Jan. 20 meeting to set some yearly resolutions.

The council voted to adopt an 80/20 percent cost sharing plan for employee healthcare insurance costs. City Manager Darwin Watson explained the resolution is an annual decision. Municipalities that do not choose to adopt a share or limit the government contribution may be out of compliance with the state statute, which could result in sanctions.

As part of another annual action, the council approved a poverty exemption resolution, setting guidelines for relief from annual property taxes if the owner meets income and asset criteria.

As part of the taxation process, the city's Board of Review reviews the annual assessment roll and hears appeals from property owners. The board will meet in July and December to address any clerical or factual errors in the assessments. State law requires municipalities to hold meetings the Tuesday after the third Monday in July and the Tuesday after the second Monday in December. Because many communities share an assessor, the state allows alternate meeting dates to avoid scheduling conflicts.

The council approved resolutions to set alternate meeting dates for both the July and December board meetings.

Watson informed the council that the city had received notice from the State of Michigan Department of Treasury regarding the city's Equipment Purchase Fund.

At the end of the 2025 fiscal year, the fund had a \$11,163 deficit. Under the Glenn Steil State Revenue Sharing Act, any local government unit that ends a fiscal year with a deficit might submit to the state a deficit elimination plan.

Watson said he and City Treasurer Kathie Butler have developed a plan. The council gave their approval to submit the plan to the state.

The New Buffalo Public Library Board has requested the council appoint two members to the New Buffalo Joint

Building Authority. On the board's recommendation, the council appointed Peter Sagala as city representative and Ariann Lawhorn as joint representative. Both members' terms will end Dec. 31, 2029.

On the recommendation of the Planning Commission, the council approved a site plan Shari Le Monnier submitted for an addition to her single-family house at 337 N Eagle St.

Watson told the council the city water tower currently does not have a backup energy source, which is not considered best practices. He said the tower needs to have constant power in order to monitor water levels and ensure the system has adequate pressure to provide water throughout the city. Based on staff research, Watson said a generator shared with the Oselka park pavilion was the most economical solution.

The only company to respond to the city's request for quotes was Martell Electric, who quoted \$27,745. The council approved the generator purchase, with the Water and Parks departments splitting the expense.

Martell Electric also provided the only bid for electrical repair work at the beach concession building. The council accepted the bid of \$8490.

In 2025, the police department purchased a new front-line vehicle. At the January meeting, the council approved the purchase of a video system identical to other department vehicles, and additional in-car equipment, including prisoner cages and an in-car computer.

The council approved a bid from Midwest Public Safety in the amount of \$8,060.43 for the video system and a bid from Public Safety Direct for \$10,463.91 for other equipment and installation.

After discussion, the council approved a vehicle lease not to exceed \$55,000 for the city manager to use in an official capacity. Mayor Vance Price noted Watson represents the city on several committees and needs to travel for meetings outside the city.

Councilmember Mark Roberts asked if the city still had the vehicle purchased for the code enforcement officer. Watson

said the vehicle is potentially available for his use, but the police department uses it almost daily to travel to the county courthouse in St. Joseph and other city administrators also use the vehicle when available.

Michigan voters are able to vote early in-person for statewide and federal elections. Berrien County has offered to contact with local governments to provide early voting locations. On the recommendation of City Clerk Amy Fidler, the council approved partnering with the county for early voting.

Watson said the arrangement helps municipalities avoid the costs of staffing a polling location for eight days. Fidler added that to hold their own early voting, the city would need to purchase new tabulator equipment, which she said would cost several thousand dollars.

This year's early polling location will be in Bridgman.

In order to organize and preserve documents, the city has hired Abonmarche to scan and electronically archive paper records. Watson said state law requires the city retain records, but many are degrading with age, and staff spends a great deal of time trying to locate relevant documents. He added the new archive will also provide better accessibility.

The council approved the archive work, not to exceed \$5000.

Councilmember Rich Knoll said the new system will help the city avoid future expenses caused by incomplete information or lost documentation.

The council approved a master fee schedule in July 2025 but did not decide on city beach parking fees at that time.

Tuesday night, the council approved a daily fee of \$25 and a three-hour fee of \$15, effective May 1.

At the Council's November 2025 meeting, Avamarie Mendoza spoke on behalf of the New Buffalo Bee Committee about plans to establish a bee-friendly garden and apiary. The committee asked if it could use a city-owned lot at 426 S. Thompson Street for its plans. In January,

Watson told the council he had spoken to the city's attorney and insurance provider, who both advised, if the city wants to proceed, they require a licensing agreement, including proof of general liability insurance and financial backing to support a hold harmless clause. A hold harmless clause protects property owners from lawsuits by having the other party agree to assume responsibility for risks.

Watson said, due to the liability and safety concerns and potential impact on neighbors, he did not recommend the council approve the agreement.

Roberts noted the matter was "more a garden and hives" and he appreciated the work Mendoza was doing but felt it would be better in a less populated area.

Work at the softball fields in Oselka Park is complete. The city joined New Buffalo Community Foundation to fund the project, installing artificial turf. As part of the agreement, NBCF committed to pay \$350,000 of the \$363,500 total with the city paying the balance. The council approved a payment of \$13,500 to GeoSurfaces, with Roberts dissenting.

Knoll commented the softball dugouts are in poor condition, especially compared to the nearby baseball dugouts. Price said the dugouts are scheduled for replacement.

Back in 2020, the city voted to participate in the Best Practices Committee, a collaborative effort to work on shared community goals. The committee was started by the Strategic Leadership Council and ended when the SLC disbanded early last year. Several municipalities want to revive the BPC.

The council voted to join the BPC, with Roberts dissenting.

The city fire department has surplus and obsolete equipment that Watson said can be sold off. The Council approved the sale via public auction. No date has been set.

Based on an investigation by the police department, the council voted to make the intersection of Townsend and Indiana streets a four-way stop, under Traffic Control Order 54. Police Chief Rich Killips said the Streets Department had reported issues at the location while plowing this winter. He added the traffic pattern at the intersection doesn't match nearby streets

and the area has seen an increase in pedestrian traffic.

In recognition of the contributions New Buffalo Township made to the 2025 Fourth of July fireworks display, the city officially named the township a co-sponsor of the event. The New Buffalo Business Association also co-sponsors the fireworks.

To codify enacted ordinances, the council had a first reading of an amendment to Chapter 10, Article 4 of the Code of Ordinances to expand three-hour parking limits in the downtown and set winter parking restrictions.

On the recommendation of Acting Fire Chief Jamie Flick, the council also had a first reading on an amendment Chapter 12, Article 3 to the City Code of Ordinances for open burning and firepits in the city. Flick said the amendment addresses safety matters, including requirements for firepit covers, allowed fuel types and

Price said the New Buffalo Police Department is taking part in the Polar Plunge fundraiser to benefit Special Olympics. Participants will plunge into Lake Michigan from Weko Beach in Bridgman on Saturday, Feb. 7. Donations are being accepted.

Feb. 7 is also the tentative date for an informal town hall meeting. Price said the meeting will give residents an opportunity to voice concerns and suggestions outside of a formal council meeting.

Resident Steven McNay addressed the council about the number of marijuana businesses on the approach to town. He asked if hours of operation could be restricted the same way liquor sales are, and asked if better safety measures, including stoplights, could be added.

Councilmembers said all marijuana businesses are in the township and advised him to address the Township Board with his concerns.

The Township has a special meeting scheduled for Jan. 27 to address "Crime, Cars and Cannabis." The meeting starts at 6pm at the Public Safety Building.

Harbor Commission receives update on dredging, broadside dock and bridge projects

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is set to dredge in the City of New Buffalo's federal navigation channel this year.

At the Harbor Commission's Wednesday, Jan. 7, meeting, city manager Darwin Watson said that Liz Newell Wilkinson, the operations manager at the Grand Haven Office at the Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, notified the city that the Amry Corps will be dredging again this year.

He said the Army Corps has "no obligation" to dredge the inner harbor and that the "majority of the dredging falls on the city." The city did it in 2023 and 2024, while the Corps did it in 2025. Prior to that, the Corps had dredged in 2019.

The same time schedule will be followed as last year, with dredging beginning in May and being completed by early June.

Seaworks will do soundings in March, at a cost of around \$10,000.

Looking at the revenues and expenditures in the dredge fund regarding fiscal year 2025, vice chair Josh Lantz asked about the "variation" in contributions from 2018-2025.

Watson said that, when he first came on as city manager in 2021, the issue was with invoices and that the city "issued an invoice to the various entities" in the harbor and asked them to pay "– people just didn't pay." At times, entities were told not to pay due to the high water and flooding, such as in 2020.

"The city has given their portion of it and the lion's share of what has been done has been on the city's back, if you will," Watson said, adding that the contributions have come in "sporadically."

Per the city attorney, Watson said that, unlike water bills, they can't assess them onto the taxes and that there's "no mechanism to go after the person," since the payment are basically a voluntary contribution.

The rates of the fee, which is currently set at \$1 a foot per slip

and is established in the ordinance, can be changed by resolution by the city council on an annual basis, if necessary, Watson said.

Lantz said he'd be willing to help with some of the "messaging" regarding the fund's status.

"It might be helpful, if we are working on a voluntary contribution system, this commission becomes more involved in crafting some of the language to stakeholders, so they understand where we're at," he said.

Lantz also said that, in addition to the deposits from the dredge fund that they'd received, he'd also like a report that shows the billings to give an idea of how much the city is collecting.

Parks director Kristen D'Amico said that the municipal marina is set to open in the third week of April.

Commissioners received an update on the ongoing broadside dock and pedestrian bridge projects.

Watson said that it was hoped that the broadside dock project will start moving by either late summer or early fall. In 2022, the city council approved the acceptance of the Financial Assistance Award from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration in the amount of \$941,383, to be used for the Municipal Marina Expansion Project.

Watson said that, before Covid, it was an about \$1.8 million project; after Covid, it was \$3.4 million.

The pedestrian bridge project has been going "very well." In 2023, the city received a grant through The Michigan Economic Development Corporation's Revitalization and Placemaking (RAP) Program, and which will cover \$1 million of the \$2 million project.

"Hopefully, we'll see stuff going on this year with those, so that's the two big things that are happening this year," Watson said.

988

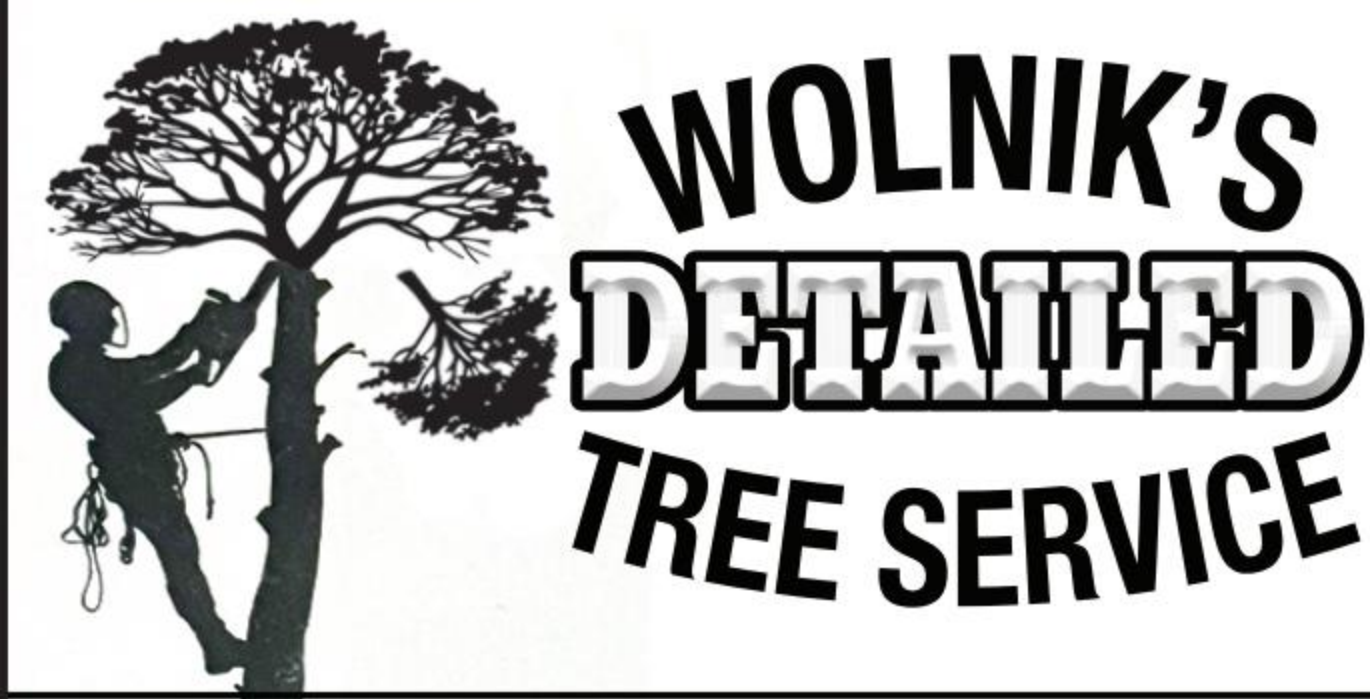
SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

30 N Whittaker St
Deli by day



Open 6 days
davidsdeliandcoffee.com

There's nothing we can't do
No job too small - No job too hard
24/7 - FREE ESTIMATES



RONNY WOLNIK II - Owner
(269)-405-0362

**NOW SERVING
FULL BAR!!!
GET A MARGARITA!**
BOOK OUR BANQUET
HALL FOR ANY EVENT!



**BREAKFAST
LUNCH • DINNER**

OPEN DAILY • 7AM-10PM
18529 Harbor Country Drive
NEW BUFFALO
FIND US ON GOOGLE



TOWN HALL MEETING

Topics of Discussion:
Crime, Cars and Cannabis

**January 27, 2026
STARTS AT 6pm**



"We want to hear what you think!" Lt Thad Chartrand of the Berrien County Sheriff's Office invites all community members to attend a townhall meeting to share input on hot topics in and around New Buffalo Township. Members of the New Buffalo Township board along with Code Enforcement will be in attendance to address your questions and concerns. "Your perspectives, questions, comments and feedback are vital in allowing us to have an open conversation. For more information, Call 269-469-1011

Where:

LOCATION CHANGE!

New Buffalo Township Public Safety Building
18959 US-12, New Buffalo, MI 49117

From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO



Last season, those of us in Chicago turned out our football lights early due to the horrible season the Bears had just gone through.

A new quarterback had given us hope, but the lack of an offensive line and a coaching staff that was bad and refused to take responsibility for any of the teams faults, turned the season into a nightmare.

Soon after the awful season ended, the Bears made their most significant hire maybe ever. Ben Johnson, the offensive coordinator of the Detroit Lions wanted to be a head coach, and many teams wanted him to be their head coach, but he wanted to coach the Bears, and all of a sudden a new era in Bears football was born.

So, new coaches were hired, new players were added, and a new attitude was nurtured, and after getting off to a slow start, the team started to win. Then they started to believe in themselves and a new, winning culture developed. Many come from behind victories later, the Bears were the division champs, having won more than twice as many games as they did the previous year, and they not only made the playoffs but earned the opportunity to play a couple of playoff games at home.

The first playoff game was a victory over the Packers and the city went crazy. The second playoff game was Sunday night against the Rams and the Bears magical season came to an unfortunate end, but

not before Caleb Williams made an unbelievable play to tie the game with only a couple of seconds remaining.

The Bears needed a touchdown to tie the game and Caleb just kept going backwards until he finally flung the ball into the end zone into the waiting arms of Cole Kmet to tie the game. The Bears and their fans were delirious, but then, the Rams kicked a field goal in overtime to end the Bears glorious season.

What a year.

If the Bears had pulled off a victory Sunday and won one more game, they would have been Super Bowl participants in coach Ben Johnson's first season. As it is, Johnson has a year of head coaching experience, Caleb Williams made great progress this season and figures to be one of the best quarterbacks in the league for years to come, and the team turned around their culture. The future is very bright for 'da Bears.

The local baseball teams haven't been sitting on their hands either. The Cubs signed third baseman Alex Bregman and pitcher Edward Cabrera while the White Sox added Japanese star infielder Munetaka Murakami and pitchers Sean Newcomb and Anthony Kay. All of these signings should help the Chicago teams.

Hans Christian Andersen said, "The whole world is a series of miracles, but we're so used to them, we call them ordinary things."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

Costly ticket worth every penny for longtime Indiana football fan

BY STAN MADDUX

A La Porte man says the ticket was costly but worth the price of being in the stadium for Indiana University winning the national college football championship.

Tim Franke called his visit to Hard Rock Stadium in Miami on Monday a "once in a lifetime experience" he never expected for a program with a long history of mediocrity until head coach Curt Cignetti turned things around quickly in just two years.

"This is something I'll never forget. I still get goose bumps thinking about it," he said.

Indiana defeated the University of Miami 27-21.

Franke, an I.U. graduate, estimated more than half of the people in attendance were Hoosiers fans despite the stadium being home to the Hurricanes.

His voice was a little hoarse from so much cheering and chanting "Hoo-Hoo-Hoosiers" during the game and the post-game celebrating he did with former classmates from the Bloomington campus he ran into at the stadium.

"I wouldn't change anything," he said. Franke was at Notre Dame Stadium

last year when the Hoosiers lost to the Irish in the first round of the college football playoffs.

Watching the game on T.V. was La Porte resident Owen Strieter, who played football for Indiana in 2017 and 2018.

Strieter said he felt a lot of tension and a friend complained of a nervous

stomach in the fourth quarter when the Hurricanes were still in striking distance.

His cheering turned into silence from disbelief as he watched the Hoosiers begin celebrating their victory after intercepting a pass from Miami late in the game.

"To see this and know how far away we were from this when I was playing there, it's insane. I don't think anything like this has ever been seen. I don't know if we'll see anything like this again," he said.

The Hoosiers were 5-7 in Strieter's final year with the team as a back-up safety and member of the special teams and 3-9 before Cignetti took over the program in 2024.

"Pretty cool. Pretty special. It's pretty unreal," he said.



I win. Google me.
— Curt Cignetti



Bison blow out Beavers in boys' basketball

BY STAN MADDUX

The New Buffalo High School boys' basketball team snapped a two-game losing streak by defeating Eau Claire 77-42 at home Tuesday.

Head Coach Nate Tripp said he expected to win but not by so much against a team he described as "dangerous" because of their scoring ability and defense.

The game was tied halfway through the first quarter but the Bison after a scoring spurt began the second period with an 11-point lead.

After an Eau Claire bucket, the Bison scored the next 20 points starting with

Lucas Forker turning an offense rebound into a lay-up.

Sam Tripp then nailed a 15-foot jump shot before Forker, Nick Haskins and Colten Lijewski each hit jump shots of their own from various distances.

A short time later, John Bradshaw went in for a lay-up after catching a nifty pass from Haskins.

Two more buckets followed before Tripp sank a three-point shot to give the Bison a 29-point lead close to halftime.

Highlights in the second half included Trevor James nailing two consecutive three-point shots and Tripp following a steal at half court taking the ball in for a

lay-up.

Tripp led the Bison with 18 points and 11 rebounds.

Forker and James each scored 16 points while Lijewski added nine points.

New Buffalo improved to 5-6 while Eau Claire dropped to 5-6.

The victory followed a 22-point defeat at home to Brandywine and a three-point loss at Bridgman.

Tripp said his team has been in a "funk" recently but showed how they're capable of playing against the Beavers.

"That's what really blew this game apart. Our guys decided let's get in sync. It's pretty incredible when they play that

way," he said.

Tripp said he met with his players last week to have a serious discussion about what's been, so far, an underachieving team of seniors who made it to the District 4 finals last season.

Tripp said he also threatened to bench players who don't start executing better and sticking to their roles on both sides of the court.

"The guys really self-reflected and they really had an honest conversation. The message was well-received obviously," he said.



1st Annual



Knights of
Columbus®

A
Winter
"Knight's"
Ball



Saturday, February 7 | 6PM–11PM

New Buffalo Yacht Club
500 W. Water St,
New Buffalo, MI 49117

\$100 per person

Attire: Black Tie Optional

Includes:

Dinner

Wine Tasting Sponsored by Nitz Wines

LIVE Auction

Music by Paul Fleming

Limited to the first 90 people

Checks to: KofC 14366

P.O. Box 293, New Buffalo, MI 49117

Or pay via credit card here: <https://tinyurl.com/mupb95dp>

Arts of Mediator hosting Erika Spafford Gansai Tambi Japanese Watercolors Art Show and Reception

SEEKING ARTISTS FOR THE "QUIET OF WINTER" ART SHOW

The Arts of Mediator at the Episcopal Church of the Mediator will be having an inaugural showing the art of new and upcoming self-taught artist Erika Spafford from Holland, at the Episcopal Church of the Mediator, as well as a winter themed art show next month.

The Erika Spafford show will run until Feb. 9 at the Episcopal Church of the Mediator. Show times are from 9 a.m. to noon Mondays through Thursdays and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sundays. Contact the church office 269-469-1441 or at office@mediatorharbert.com if you have any questions. The artist can be contacted at erikaspafford@gmail.com.

A reception to meet the artist will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31, at the church.

The winter themed art show will run Feb. 15 through March 20. The Arts of the Mediator is looking for multimedia artwork to display. Artists of all ages and all skill levels, who like to paint, draw, sculpt, carve, weld,

sew, quilt, collage, and/or use any form of multimedia (whether abstract, traditional, or contemporary) are invited to display and share their original artwork with this theme. Artwork can be dropped off from 9 a.m. to noon Monday through Thursdays to the church office any time until Feb. 13. Artists can sell their art, but the work must remain on display until the end of the show. There is no fee to enter. The Episcopal Church of the Mediator does not take any commissions on any sales. All sales or sales tax are between the artist and the purchaser. If artists sell their work and cannot be present during the showing times, arrangements can be made with the purchaser to arrange details of payment and transfer of the artwork.

Participating artists accept all responsibility for damages and/or loss should it occur.

The Episcopal Church of the Mediator is located at 14280 Red Arrow Highway in Harbert. — STAFF REPORTS

A Day in the Life CRAZY AS A LOON... BY LAWRENCE VON EBELER



One of my favorite events is going to the Harbor Country Mission in Bridgman to see what has turned up since my last visit. Afterwards we like to go to McDonald's for a quickie snack or lunch and then back home to inspect my big purchases. It was a good day on my last trip when I picked up an Art Deco floor lamp with a multi-colored lead glass shade for nothing. It made my day to find some keen purchases.

After I unpacked all of my other purchases, three pairs of Levis and other things I didn't need, I turned on the news like every afternoon to watch the depressing stories that seem always to be there. Oh I am not what you might call a "news junkie" that's not what you would call me (or maybe I am because I live for the moment I can turn on the TV for the news, as it were). I am wild about Katy Tur with little doubt that she is a Democrat who does not hide it in her extraordinary broadcast with her candid reports on the news of the day. It would be dishonest of me to try and sell the Republican causes under the Democratic flag, so hold off your criticisms as I try to direct a show. Not true, but mostly so, I fantasize as if we are all impressed with Katy's style and her candid broadcasts. I can elaborate on the sometimes humorless broadcasts but would rather pull weeds and mow my yard back home on the farm with a push mower.

A job that I have always hated. I also hated weeding our one acre garden while getting sunburned and mosquito bitten. At home... ENTER dream fantasy as I drift off; "where with the sissies were when the acorns surpassed the chosen for the family tree which never gets done and has passed through the experience of going to visit the church and the water." That's straight from the dream. Did you recognize it!? I have a tendency to do that when writing and this time I decided to let it go.

The other part of my dream fantasy was about the political aspect that I let go when I am more oftentrying to disguise it. The Political Gods will get me for that I am sure. Moving along aimlessly I would like to wish any and all of you a glorious day like I am having and we will be in touch next week. When I tried to resume the scene from the dream above I was frustrated that I could not restart from where I left off, crazy as it is. I made a decision to let this day dream remain. It's kind of interesting to me, hopefully to you too! Not everything in life is reality.





CALVARYCHAPELNB.ORG

We are a non-denominational church teaching through the bible line by line

Sunday service 1015 ET

Thursday bible study 7pm ET

Saturday men's bible study 915 ET in person and zoom

Saturday women's bible study 1030 ET on zoom

1615 E Buffalo St. New Buffalo, Mi



INTEGRITY • EXPERIENCE • SUCCESS

LaROSE & BOSCO, LTD.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

CHICAGO, IL • NEW BUFFALO, MI

MARK A. LAROSE

mlarose@laroseboscoulaw.com

Real Estate, Business Law, Commercial Transactions, Injury Law

New Buffalo: (269) 469-8440

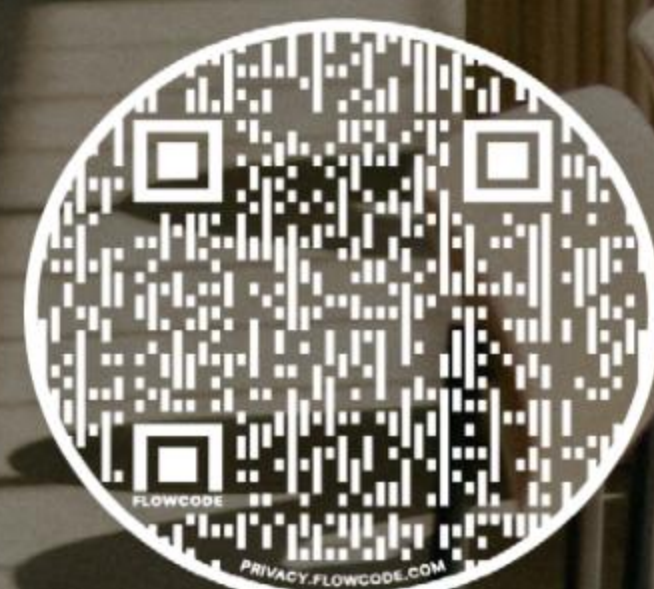
Chicago: (312) 642-4414

HISTORIC. HANDCRAFTED. UNFORGETTABLE.

Our event spaces in Three Oaks, MI and Valparaiso, IN are set in thoughtfully restored 19th-century factories—blending industrial character, modern comfort, and flexible design for gatherings of all kinds.

From weddings and retreats to holiday parties and corporate celebrations, our team will help you craft an experience you'll never forget.

Just about an hour from Chicago or South Bend—and a world away from the ordinary.



SCAN FOR MORE
JOURNEYMAN.COM/EVENTS

JOURNEYMAN

THREE OAKS, MI | VALPARAISO, IN



acornlive.org

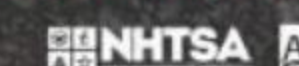
WHEN YOU LOOK GOOD, YOU FEEL GOOD

the
Love Spell
boutique

9 W MECHANIC ST
NEW BUFFALO, MI

I SHOULD
~~PROBABLY~~
GET A
RIDE
HOME.

BUZZED DRIVING
IS DRUNK DRIVING



TEXT AND
WHATEVER
JUST
DON'T
TEXT
AND



STOPTEXTSSTOPWRECKS.ORG



OBITUARIES

Christine Stevens 1951-2026



Christine Stevens, 74, of Union Pier, Michigan, fell asleep in death on Sunday, January 4, 2026, at Hanson Hospice Center in Stevensville, following a courageous battle with cancer.

Christine’s life began on December 9, 1951, in Indianapolis, Indiana. She was the youngest of two daughters born to Charles and Lillian Stevens. Chris grew up on a farm near Indianapolis, where she developed a lifelong love of animals and nature, two things she treasured deeply throughout her life. She cherished her family and her farm upbringing, which shaped her generous and compassionate spirit.

During her school years, Chris was involved in many activities, including band, choir, and the yearbook club. After graduating from high school, she attended Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science. She later studied in Pennsylvania, earning her paralegal certification, and went on to achieve an MBA from Loyola University Chicago.

Chris began her professional career with the First National Bank of Chicago in the trust department. Her banking career spanned more than 30 years and took her through several departments, ultimately culminating in her role as Managing Director at JPMorgan Capital Corporation (formerly the Leasing Department). In that role, she served as a principal negotiator on international deals involving airlines, shipping companies, sports arenas, power plants, and more. Though small in stature, Chris was a mighty powerhouse who never backed down from a challenge.

Chris greatly enjoyed traveling the world, always returning home with souvenirs and stories from her adventures. She retired in 2006 and moved to Union Pier, Michigan, where she was able to care for her aging parents and fully pursue her love of gardening, animals, and the natural beauty around her.

Chris was well known for her incredible generosity,

her loving concern for others, and her willingness to expend herself in assisting those around her, even during her illness. She was always ready with a smile and delighted in making her friends laugh. A devoted animal lover, she shared her days with cherished cats and dogs and extended that same kindness and care to the local wildlife she held dear.

Reflecting her generous spirit, Chris was passionately involved in fundraising for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation for many years and served as co-chair of the Grand Chefs Gala. She was also very active in her community, following in her father’s footsteps as president of the Gordon Beach Homeowners Association, and was a proud member of the Three Oaks Community Garden.

Chris loved to learn, and that love led her to search God’s Word, the Bible. After thoroughly studying the Scriptures, she was baptized as one of Jehovah’s Witnesses in 2015. She was a beloved member of the Three Oaks, Michigan Congregation and actively volunteered in the ministry until her passing. Chris cherished the Bible’s promise of a global Paradise, where all humans and animals will live together in perfect harmony.

Chris was treasured by all who knew her and will be dearly missed by family and friends. She is survived by her sister, Kathy Jones of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; her nephews Micah (Melissa), Matt (Melody), Marcus (Morgan); six great-nephews; and one great-niece.

She was preceded in death by her parents and many beloved pets.

Family and friends will gather at 2:00 p.m. ET on Saturday, January 31, 2026, at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses, 7230 West Kruger Road, Three Oaks, Michigan 49128. The service will also be available via Zoom (<https://tinyurl.com/ChrisStevensMemorial>).

For those who wish to make memorial contributions, donations in Chris’s memory may be made to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (www.cff.org) or the Michiana Humane Society (www.michianapets.org).

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Memories and condolences may be shared online at www.wagnercares.com.

HOROSCOPE

JANUARY 22-28, 2026
AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19



You will be given the opportunity to control the narrative or sway public opinion about yourself this week. Be honest about your abilities and perspective of situations. Have the courage to face your shadow side and embrace who you are and what has brought you to this moment before going public.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20



The energy this week is all about watching what people do before you get too caught up in a contentious or high energy situation with them. Interactions will require a certain hesitation or a more subdued approach. It's better to take a more stoic stance when faced with provocative information.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21



It is important to act with the utmost integrity this week because you will be given the opportunity to operate behind the scenes and influence outcomes that may have been unreachable until now. Whatever you choose will carry a lot of responsibility and the effect long lasting. What do you want to be known for?

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22



This is the time to let partners guide you and introduce you to new things. By doing the normal everyday chores and running around together, you will encounter the unusual and thought provoking. Pay attention to what is being presented because it just may be the inspiration or conformation you need.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22



The stars will be shining on opportunities to find the right help or to get things worked out with coworkers. Put more energy into setting up a system that has more balance and reciprocity. It's important to balance the responsibilities and require each person to contribute evenly. Synergize the team.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22



Set your sights on the ideas of unification and harmonizing opposing forces around you. Whether you are dealing with your own family members not seeing eye to eye or dealing with a partner's family that has become overbearing, try to do things that will bring people together and accentuate their similarities.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22



Take charge of all things health and wellness this week. Whether you are cleaning up your daily habits or the actual kitchen stay the course. Luck will be with you in finding the right cleaning supplies and the magic elixirs to get the job done. Don't be afraid to call a professional, you will get a good labor rate.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21



This is the week to get things off your chest and work out any issues that have been laying heavy on your heart. Lighten your load by expressing yourself and participating in activities that get you connected with your feelings, like painting or drawing; the more hands on the better. Cleanse your heart.

SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21



There is a very mothering energy radiating your way this week so, put it to good use by nurturing and caring for yourself and those around you. Take the time to reach out to the women in your life that are important to you. Mothering doesn't mean you have to do all the chores. It's about showing support.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19



The opportunity to talk things out with your neighbors or siblings will arise this week. It's time to put your perspective and sense of the situation out there and give space for others to do the same. You can expect chaotic or discordant energy to be harmonized but it may require hearing some off-putting details.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



The energy is all about working behind the scenes and making plans that only a few people know about. It's time to avoid the crowd and not get overly involved with other people's ideas. Stick with what you know and push forward with the things you know will work. There is a heavy amount of self reliance needed here.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20



This is the time to put your physical efforts and financial skills into things that will resonate out to a larger audience or serve a larger purpose. Trust in the idea that every human wish is ultimately fulfilled and start visualizing. The concept to really grasp is that anything is possible when you dream it.

THE BENDT HOVEL
Perennial Garden Maintenance
Sandra Bendt
(219) 874-2269

Sudoku
Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

	5		4	8				
7		8			5			
			1		7			
3		5	2				4	
		7	6					1
	1					2		7
2							5	
4	8			1	3			
			7	4		3		

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS**

 - 1 Examine
 - 5 Soap-frame bar
 - 9 Turf
 - 12 Hatred (Ital.)
 - 13 Egypt. cross
 - 14 Guido's note (2 words)
 - 15 Knee (Lat.)
 - 16 Growl
 - 17 Block
 - 18 Size of coal
 - 20 Pompano
 - 22 Wealth
 - 25 Drunk driving (abbr.)
 - 26 Pointed (pref.)
 - 27 Drop
 - 29 Canadian island
 - 33 Pasteboard
 - 35 Public vehicle
 - 37 Voucher
 - 38 Buddhist Mongol
 - 40 Luzon people
 - 42 Haitian voodoo deity
 - 43 Son of Ra
- DOWN**

 - 1 Clothe
 - 2 Gelderland city
 - 3 Easy job
 - 4 Hard
 - 5 Wilt
 - 6 Sicilian resort
 - 7 Norse poet
- 45 Overcoat
 - 47 Calm
 - 51 N.Z. woody vine
 - 52 Atlantic (abbr.)
 - 53 Buddhist monk
 - 55 Opera heroine
 - 58 Female ruff
 - 59 Norse mythical hero
 - 60 Trolley
 - 61 Period
 - 62 Rigid hair
 - 63 Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (abbr.)
- 8 Cagey
 - 9 Fat (pref.)
 - 10 Viking
 - 11 Defy
 - 19 General equivalency diploma (abbr.)
 - 21 City on the Danube
- 22 Sprint
 - 23 Adjective-forming (suf.)
 - 24 Pouch
 - 28 Sheep's cry
 - 30 Arouet
 - 31 Sioux tribe
 - 32 Close
 - 34 It. actress
 - 36 Heat unit
 - 39 Gr. author
 - 41 Axilla
 - 44 Way
 - 46 Ray
 - 47 Berne's river
 - 48 Wing (pref.)
 - 49 Excuse
 - 50 Discharge
 - 54 Alabama (abbr.)
 - 56 Burmese knife
 - 57 Television channel

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15					16					17		
			18		19		20			21		
22	23				24		25					
26				27		28		29		30	31	32
33			34		35		36		37			
38				39		40		41		42		
				43		44		45		46		
47	48	49				50		51				
52				53			54		55		56	57
58				59					60			
61				62					63			

*To know oneself is to study oneself in action
with another person. — Bruce Lee*

New Buffalo Township nominated for 2026 Business Recognition Breakfast Award

New Buffalo Township has been nominated for a Community Focused – Community Placemaking award for its Disc Golf Course at Glassman Park for the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber’s annual Business Recognition Breakfast Awards Ceremony and Annual Meeting, which will take place at Lake Michigan College Mendal Center’s Grand Upton Hall Friday, Feb. 20.

Other nominees are City of Buchanan - Downtown Infrastructure; Lake Charter Township - John Gast Memorial Trail; Village of Berrien Springs - Mechanic Street Project and Lincoln Charter Township - John Beers Sidewalk Project.

“Each year, the nominations highlight the strength, innovation, and community commitment that make our region thrive,” said Arthur Havlicek, president and CEO of the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber. “They are a powerful reminder that we are truly Stronger Together and that collaboration, leadership, and shared purpose continue to drive meaningful impact across Southwest Michigan.

In keeping with tradition, the Chamber will also recognize one of their Ambassadors as their 2026 Ambassador of the Year.

To view full event details and purchase, visit www.brbawards2026. — STAFF

REPORTS

BEST NEW BUSINESS
Ellsbury Commercial Group
Gym Rat Performance and Wellness
Melrose Aesthetic
The Batalis Agency — Farm Bureau Insurance
The Grant Hotel

ECONOMIC IMPACT AWARD
Berrien County
Corewell Health
Four Winds Casinos
Holtec International

SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD
2nd & Main Coffeehouse + Bar
Bread + Bar
Naturally You Aesthetics
Medical Spa
Zo’s Mini Donuts

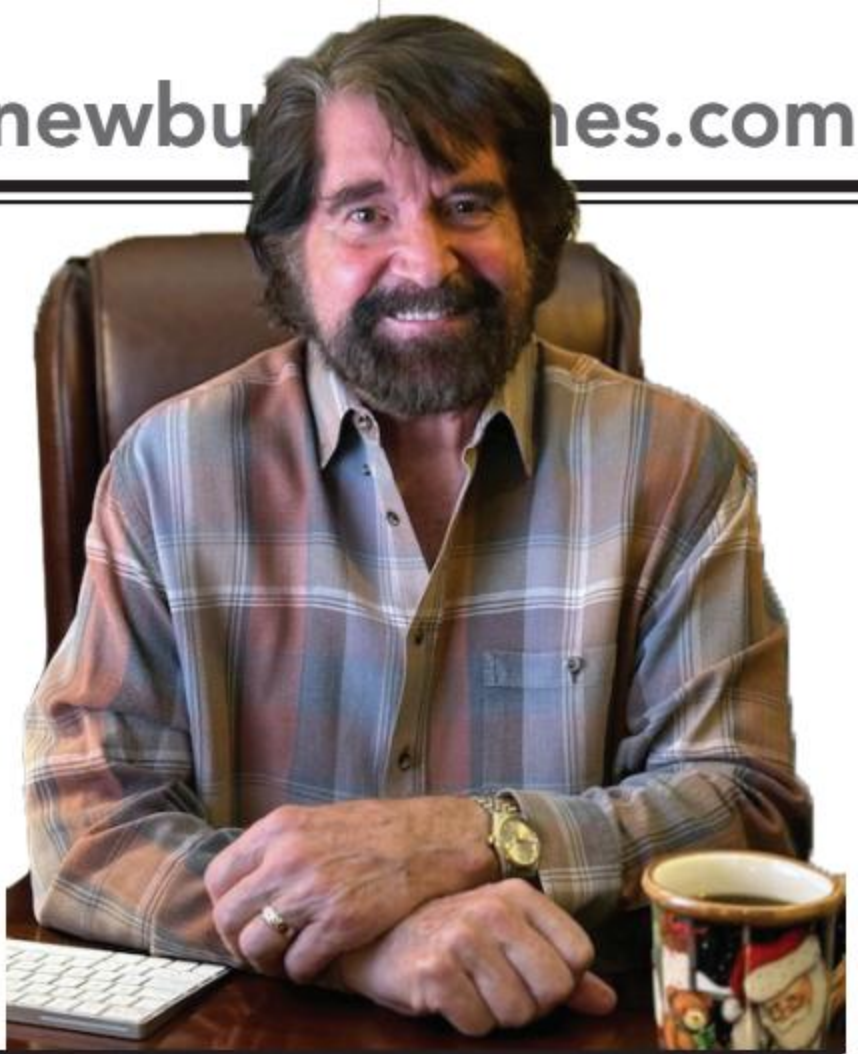
NON-PROFIT OF THE YEAR AWARD
Meals on Wheels
New Heights CCDA
Redbud Area Ministries
Region IV Area Agency on Aging

INDIVIDUAL FOCUSED: RISING STAR AWARD
Allison Brown, ServPro
Austin Batalis, The Batalis Agency — Farm Bureau Insurance
Chris Britton, New Heights CCDA
James Morris, Gym Rat Performance and Wellness

THE PAT MOODY AWARD
Jeffery Bradford, Wightman
Matt Davis, Wightman
Megan Yore, Sturgis Bank

A Writer’s Life... DURING THE GOLDEN AGE OF TELEVISION ANIMATION

BY JACK OLESKER



Pranks...wonderful pranks. Knowing Bobby’s love for his basketball videogame, Mert would lure him out of our office with some distraction. Then Stoke would sneak into Bobby and my office, where I was a passive observer, pull the videogame floppy out of Bobby’s computer and move it somewhere in the office.

At first Stoke would put the floppy into one of Bobby’s desk drawers or slide it between a stack of scripts with the floppy barely sticking out. These moves were designed to make Bobby think he’d absently moved the floppy himself. Later, the moves became more audacious – the floppy slid between two books on our bookshelves or into file cabinets. To Bobby’s horror, Stoke would sometimes drop the floppy into Bobby’s wastebasket.

The payoff was when Bobby returned to our office. After a few minutes he’d realize the basketball floppy was missing and a frantic search followed, Stoke and Mert casually passing by to see Bobby tearing the place apart in search of his floppy. From my desk, I could see it was all they could do to keep themselves from cracking up.

Bobby finally figured out Mert and Stoke’s game, ordering them to keep their hands off his floppy...as if that would deter them. To discourage them, Bobby took to hiding the floppy himself. I confess I was the double agent who’d reveal his hiding places to Mert and Stoke so they could remove and hide the floppy once more. To his credit, Bobby he took it in stride, his comeback always being, “You guys are idiots.”

Working in 1985 as a staff writer at DIC Entertainment during The Golden Age of Television Animation wasn’t all

softball games and office pranks. To be sure, a lot of it was fun. But there was a time for having fun and pulling pranks and a time for hard work. For Bobby and me, it was time to get down into the trenches and grind it out. I was glad there were two of us!

We were knee-deep with Popples. We had a steady stream of writers delivering story springboards, treatments and scripts for the series. My favorite duo – Jack Hanrahan and Eleanor Burian-Mohr – were delivering almost more than I could handle. Howard Cohen was also nibbling around for script assignments. Bobby had his own cadre of writers and, naturally, we also made sure we got a number of our own story springboards approved so we could write scripts as well.

I confess it was exhausting, and not just because of the volume of work but because of the Popples themselves. For me and Bobby, these creatures had come to life, and were positively exhausting. Anyone who believes “perpetual motion is impossible because it would violate either the first or second law of thermodynamics” never met a Popple. The dictionary definition of ‘popple’ is “to move in a tumbling, irregular manner.” That’s putting it mildly. We had plenty of samples of the fuzzy little creatures all around our office to inspire us as we tossed them back and forth.

These adorable, teddy bear-like critters with pouches on their backs that allowed them to alternately curl up inside themselves and then pop out, were literally in perpetual motion, causing havoc not only in our real life office but also in the animated home of brother and sister Billy and Bonnie Wagner where they secretly live.

We were starting to like this...a lot!

To Your Health

COLUMN BY KAREN EDWARDS ND

GUIDE TO A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP

If you are having sleep problems, whether you are not able to fall asleep, wake up too often, don't feel well-rested when you wake up in the morning, or simply want to improve the quality of your sleep, try some of these following techniques.

Listen to White Noise or Relaxation music. Some people find the sound of white noise or nature sounds to be soothing for sleep.

Avoid high calorie before-bed snacks, particularly grains and sugars. This will raise blood sugar and inhibit sleep. Later, when blood sugar drops too low, you might wake up and not be able to fall back asleep.

Sleep in complete darkness or as close as possible. When light hits the eyes, it disrupts the circadian rhythm of the pineal gland and production of melatonin and serotonin. Keep a flashlight near your bed that you can turn on as needed if you have to get up.

No TV, computer or phone time right before bed. The blue light emitted reduces sleep quality, which can lead to sleep disruption, daytime fatigue and wanting naps. Get the TV out of the bedroom completely. It is too stimulating to the brain and is very disruptive to your pineal gland function. Avoid sleeping with your phone in or right near your bed. The radiation can also disrupt your circadian rhythm. Check your bedroom for other electro-magnetic fields. Remove your clock from view. It will only add to your worry when constantly staring at it... 2 AM...3 AM... and so on! You can check out this book. Dr. Herbert Ross,"Sleep Disorders"

Read something relaxing and peaceful. Try to stay away from

anything stimulating, such as a mystery or suspense. This could have the opposite effect by releasing adrenaline, which you do not want to happen before a night of sleep.

Journaling. If you often lay in bed with your mind racing, it might be helpful keep a journal and write down your thoughts before bed.

Get daily exercise. Exercising for at least 20 minutes during the day can help you sleep more sound.

Get to bed as early as possible. Our adrenals do a majority of their recharging of stress hormones during the hours of 10PM and 2AM. This is also when our immune system undergoes a critical, restorative phase. Your gallbladder dumps toxins during this same period. If you are awake, the toxins back up into the liver which then back up into your entire system. Keeping you stimulated.

Prior to electricity, people would go to bed shortly after sundown. Nature still intends us to follow our natural circadian rhythm.

Avoid caffeine. Even one cup can keep some people from falling asleep. Also, some medications, particularly diet pills contain caffeine. Caffeine causes adrenal stress.

Avoid alcohol. Although alcohol will make you drowsy, the effect is short lived and you will often wake up several hours later, unable to fall back asleep. Alcohol will also keep you from falling into the deeper theta stages of sleep, where the body does its healing.

Disclaimer: Everything here is for nutritional education and is not meant to diagnose, treat prevent or cure. See your doctor when you have questions.



PET OF THE WEEK



SISSY

Sissy is a little over three ears old, weighs around nine pounds, is spayed with her vaccinations up-to-date. She has very soft fur, a kissable face, with a more beautiful personality. She is shy at first, but will warm up to you for belly rubs, nuzzles and cuddles. Sissy has lived with other cats, and did just fine. She is a curious explorer, and would thrive in a calm and easy going household. Make Sissy part of your home today.

AVAILABLE AT THE
MICHIANA HUMANE SOCIETY

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
New Buffalo Times
— SINCE 1942 —

1	5	2	4	8	6	9	7	3
7	3	8	9	2	5	4	1	6
9	4	6	1	3	7	8	2	5
3	9	5	2	7	1	6	4	8
8	2	7	6	9	4	5	3	1
6	1	4	3	5	8	2	9	7
2	7	3	8	6	9	1	5	4
4	8	9	5	1	3	7	6	2
5	6	1	7	4	2	3	8	9

T	E	S	T		S	E	S	S		S	O	D
O	D	I	O		A	N	K	H		E	L	A
G	E	N	U		G	N	A	R		B	A	R
	E	G	G		A	L	E	W	I	F	E	
R	I	C	H	E	S		D	W	I			
A	C	U		D	A	B		D	E	V	O	N
C	A	R	D		C	A	B		N	O	T	E
E	L	E	U	T		A	T	A		L	O	A
			S	H	U		U	L	S	T	E	R
A	P	P	E	A	S	E		A	K	A		
A	T	L			L	A	M	A		A	I	D
R	E	E			E	G	I	L		T	R	A
E	R	A			S	E	T	A		E	E	O

Tweet

Streaming

Selfie

Search Results

Connected

FIND A PARK OR FOREST NEAR YOU AT

DISCOVERtheFOREST.org

Ad Council U.S. Forest Service

SERVICE DIRECTORY



Auto-Owners
INSURANCE

LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

Gregory A. Bubbs, CIC
269-469-4438
212 S Whittaker St.
New Buffalo, MI



HARBOR COUNTRY
INSURANCE AGENCY

www.HARBORCOUNTRYINSURANCE.COM



Genesis
Web Design

St Joseph, MI
269.429.7014

Design • Maintenance • Hosting



100
ACRE FARM

LAWN CARE & SNOW REMOVAL, LLC

MOWING
EDGING
LANDSCAPING
MULCHING
POWER WASHING
SEASONAL
CLEAN-UPS

10% DISCOUNT
FIRST SERVICE FOR
MILITARY & SENIORS

269-586-4303



CLEAN AIR
Cleaning Services

Residential
Commercial
Rentals
Move-Ins • Move-Outs
Deep Cleans

10% Discount
First Service for
Military & Seniors

269-586-4303

PROFESSIONALS
IN ALL OF YOUR
TREE CARE NEEDS



MAPLE CITY
TREE SPECIALISTS

REMOVAL
TRIMMING
PRESERVATION

STORM DAMAGE
FIREWOOD
LOT CLEARING
SNOW PLOWING

FREE ESTIMATES
Commercial • Residential
37 Years Experience • Insured

DENNIS JEFFERS, SR.
219-393-3155
maplecitytree@comcast.net



durk wurks

CREATIVE / EDITORIAL MARKETING
DESIGN

219-331-9230

**ADVERTISE
ON THIS PAGE**

PLEASE CONTACT
JANINE L. ADAMSKI
JANINEADAMSKI@GMAIL.COM
(630) 370-0820

**LARGEST SELECTION OF SPAS
in the Area!**





**SENSATIONAL
Spas**

Monday-Friday 9-5
Saturday 9-2

5595 Red Arrow Hwy.
Stevensville
269-429-7171

WWW.SENSATIONALHOTTUBS.COM





The Market Is at an All-Time High

 A correction could be just around the corner

Protect your gains with a strategy designed to:

-  Capture growth potential
-  Provide a buffer against market declines
-  Offer defined timelines for clarity



AIREY FINANCIAL GROUP
STRATEGY • GUIDANCE • PROTECTION

JOEY DIMAGGIO
269-205-3005

Provided content is for overview and informational purposes only and is not intended and should not be relied upon as individualized tax, legal, fiduciary, or investment advice. Investing involves risk which includes potential loss of principal. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.

BIG GAME HEADQUARTERS



SUPER BOWL

FEBRUARY 8TH:

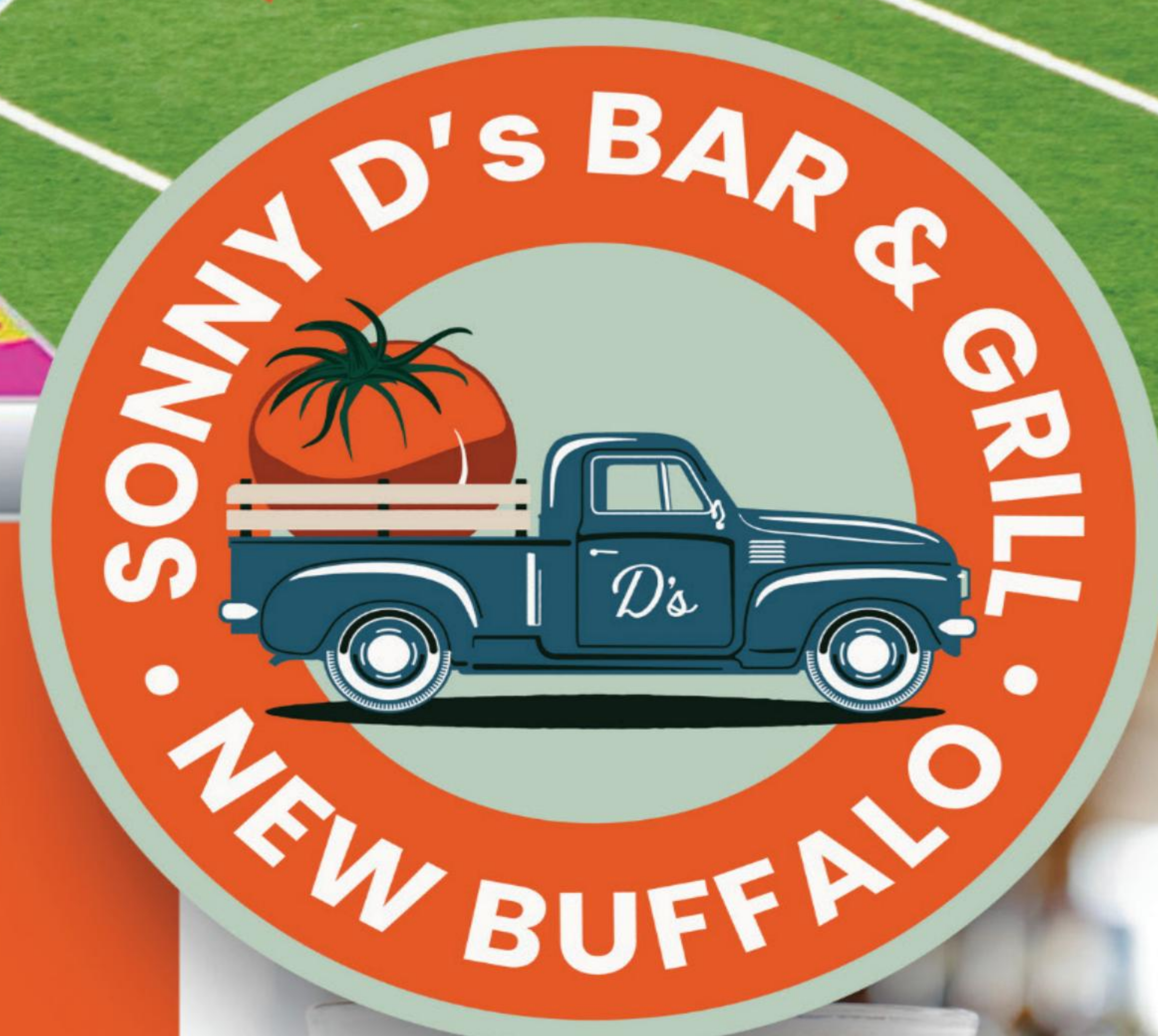
1/2 Price Select Apps

**\$5 Draft
Beers**

**\$10 Bloody
Mary**

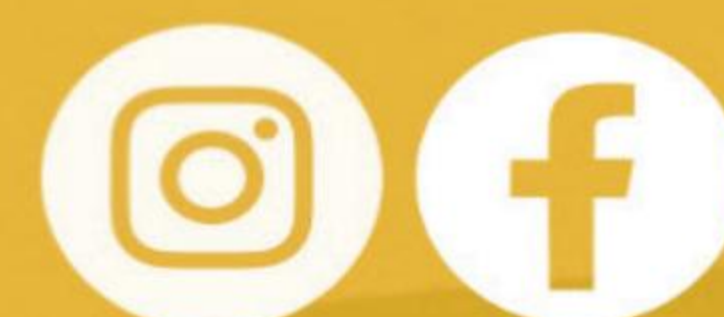
And complimentary bar snacks!

Sonny Sunday specials are only valid in the bar area.



SONNYDS.COM | (269) 586-3605

SONNY D'S NEW BUFFALO
@SONNYDSNEWBUFFALO





BBQ

SUNDAYS

\$ 23

Rocco's
TAVERN

**EVERY SUNDAY
FROM NOON**
Until We Run Out!

FULL SLAB OF RIBS & FRESH CUT FRIES

827 FRANKLIN STREET | MICHIGAN CITY, IN 46360
219.355.3047